

Message Text

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71

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5155

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13952

E.O. L1652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJ: IISS MILITARY BALANCE FIGURES FOR MBFR

1. THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (IISS) PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 3 ITS ANNUAL MILITARY BALANCE. THE SECTION ON MBFR WILL BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES. THE 76-77 MILITARY BALANCE ESTIMATES WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AT 899,000, DOWN FROM THE 925,000 ESTIMATE IN THE 75-76 BALANCE.

2. THE IISS FIGURE FOR WP GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IS 50,000 LESS THAN OFFICIAL NATO ESTIMATE. IISS ALSO INDICATES THE WP TOTAL IS FALLING. MOREOVER, THE INSTITUTE ASSERTS THE DISPARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IS ONLY 107,000, COMPARED WITH THE NATO ESTIMATE OF 159,000.

3. THESE FIGURES WILL NO DOUBT BE USED BY THE EAST IN VIENNA TO BOLSTER ITS CASE THAT THE WEST'S OFT STATED
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CONCERN OVER THE DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF DISPARITY IN

GROUND FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS A SELF-INDUCED, IF NOT
CYNICAL, FANTASY.

ARMSTRONG

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